

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Second Quarter 2008

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the second quarter of 2008, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from April to June 2008. The estimates refer to Mauritian population aged 16 years and above.

As from 2004, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is using the CMPHS for the measurement of quarterly labour force, employment and unemployment. The methodology of the CMPHS and the definition of terms used are given at Annex I. Annex II shows a series of comparable annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the period 2000 to 2008.

It is to be noted that all estimates in this report are subject to sampling error that tends to be relatively large when the sample numbers are small.

2. Key points

Actual estimates – change from first to second quarter of 2008

- (i) Employment of Mauritians increased by 9,600 to 517,800.
- (ii) Unemployment decreased by 4,500 to 41,100
- (iii) Unemployment rate decreased from 8.2% to 7.4%.

Actual estimates – change from second quarter of 2007 to second quarter of 2008

- (i) Employment of Mauritians increased by 14,800 to 517,800.
- (ii) Unemployment decreased by 7,500 to 41,100.
- (iii) Unemployment rate decreased from 8.8% to 7.4%.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

- (i) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 7.6% to 6.8% between the first and second quarters of 2008.
- (ii) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 8.2% to 6.8% between the second quarter of 2007 and the second quarter of 2008.

Estimates for year 2008

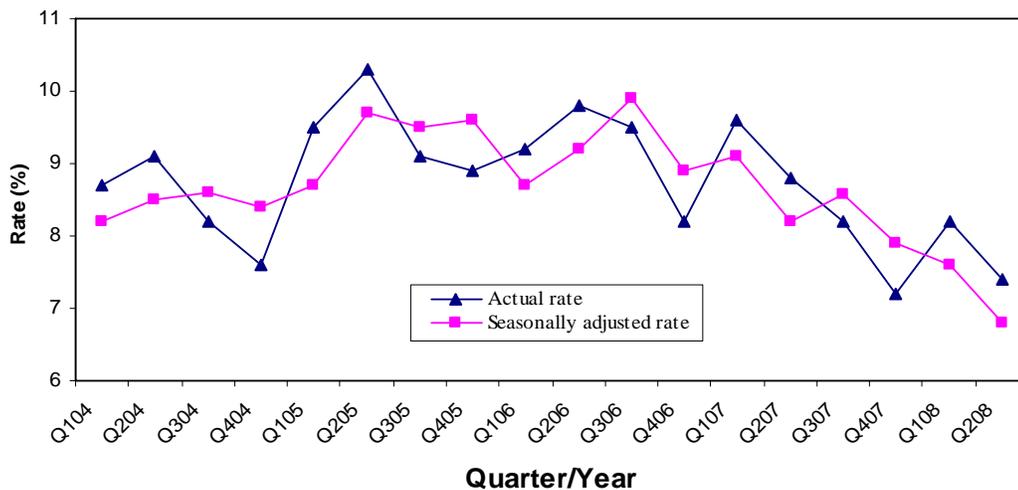
- (i) Employment of Mauritians is expected to increase by 8,400 from 502,100 in 2007 to 510,500 in 2008.
- (ii) Unemployment is expected to decrease by 3,400 from 46,800 in 2007 to 43,400 in 2008.
- (iii) Unemployment rate is expected to decrease from 8.5% in 2007 to 7.8% in 2008, the lowest level since 2004.

Unemployment rate is influenced by seasonal factors. It is usually higher in the second half of the year because of school leavers joining the labour market, and lower in the second half with more casual jobs being available mainly in the trade sector (street vendors, salespersons in shops, etc.) at the end of the year. In order to observe the real trend over time, it is more relevant to remove the seasonal fluctuations from the time-series. Based on the quarterly data for the period first quarter 2001 to second quarter 2008; the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates obtained are presented in Table 1 (for year 2006 onwards) and Chart 1.

Table 1 – Actual and seasonally adjusted quarterly unemployment rates, Q₁ 2006 – Q₂ 2008

Unemployment rate (%)	2006					2007					2008	
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr
Actual	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	7.4
Seasonally adjusted	8.6	9.2	9.8	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.5	7.6	6.8

Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₂ 2008



3. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the second quarter of 2008 were:

- (i) The 41,100 unemployed comprised 13,600 males (33%) and 27,500 females (67%).

- (ii) Around 16,000 or about 39% of the unemployed were below 25 years. Some 5,800 or 42% of the unemployed males and 37% or 10,300 of the unemployed females were below 25 years.
- (iii) About 45% (18,600) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (8,900 or 66%) was single while among females, the majority (17,900 or 65%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iii) Some 8,500 or 21% had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 18,600 (45%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (iv) Around 28,900 (71%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 12,200 (29%) for more than one year.
- (v) About 27,900 (68%) had working experience and 13,200 (32%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 15,100 (37%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 7,400 (18%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 3,400 (46%) of them had not passed SC.
- (ix) Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 11,900. Among them, about 8,600 (73%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 5,700 or 14% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 5,600 (14%) lived in households with no employed persons.

4. Activity status of the population aged 16 years and over

Among the 943,300 persons aged 16 years and over in the second quarter of 2008, about 558,900 or 59% were economically active, with 517,800 (55%) having a job and 41,100 (4%) unemployed. The remaining 384,400 (41%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2007 were 503,000 (54%) employed, 48,600 (5%) unemployed and 378,900 (41%) inactive persons.

Standard errors and confidence intervals have been calculated for the main labour force estimates and are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

	2nd Quarter 2007				2nd Quarter 2008			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	551,600	8,600	534,600	568,500	558,900	17,200	525,100	592,900
Male	354,600	5,700	343,400	365,900	355,000	10,700	333,900	376,100
Female	197,000	5,100	186,900	207,000	203,900	7,700	188,700	219,100
Employment								
Both Sexes	503,000	8,500	486,400	519,700	517,800	15,200	487,800	547,800
Male	335,200	5,300	324,700	345,700	341,400	10,300	321,100	361,700
Female	167,800	5,300	157,300	178,200	176,400	6,200	164,100	188,700
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	48,600	4,000	40,700	56,500	41,100	3,800	33,800	48,500
Male	19,400	1,800	15,900	23,000	13,600	1,500	10,700	16,600
Female	29,200	2,900	23,500	34,800	27,500	3,000	21,700	33,300
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	378,900	7,300	364,500	393,300	384,400	11,800	361,200	407,500
Male	102,800	4,200	94,600	111,000	108,700	4,900	99,000	118,300
Female	276,100	5,400	265,400	286,900	275,700	8,600	258,800	292,600
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.3	0.7	58.0	60.6	59.3	0.5	58.2	60.3
Male	77.5	0.8	76.0	79.1	76.6	0.7	75.2	77.9
Female	41.6	0.9	39.8	43.4	42.5	0.9	40.8	44.2
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	8.8	0.7	7.4	10.2	7.4	0.6	6.3	8.5
Male	5.5	0.5	4.5	6.4	3.8	0.4	3.1	4.6
Female	14.8	1.4	12.0	17.6	13.5	1.2	11.2	15.8

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment from 2005 to 2008.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2005 - 2008

	Year 2005	Year 2006	1st Quarter 2007	2nd Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2007	4th Quarter 2007	Year 2007	1st Quarter 2008	2nd Quarter 2008	Year 2008 ^{1/}
Labour Force										
Both Sexes	542,500	548,400	538,100	551,600	552,500	546,100	548,900	553,800	558,900	553,900
Male	349,600	351,400	350,400	354,600	354,600	352,400	353,600	352,800	355,000	352,700
Female	192,900	197,000	187,700	197,000	197,900	193,700	195,300	201,000	203,900	201,200
Employment										
Both Sexes	490,600	498,600	486,700	503,000	507,400	506,800	502,100	508,200	517,800	510,500
Male	329,400	332,200	329,400	335,200	338,000	338,100	335,000	334,900	341,400	337,300
Female	161,200	166,400	157,300	167,800	169,400	168,700	167,100	173,300	176,400	173,200
Unemployment										
Both Sexes	51,900	49,800	51,400	48,600	45,100	39,300	46,800	45,600	41,100	43,400
Male	20,200	19,200	21,000	19,400	16,600	14,300	18,600	17,900	13,600	15,400
Female	31,700	30,600	30,400	29,200	28,500	25,000	28,200	27,700	27,500	28,000
Inactive Population										
Both Sexes	364,100	370,900	389,200	378,900	381,200	390,800	383,200	386,300	384,400	389,400
Male	96,300	100,600	105,500	102,800	104,400	108,100	104,600	109,300	108,700	111,000
Female	267,800	270,300	283,700	276,100	276,800	282,700	278,600	277,000	275,700	278,400
Activity rate (%)										
Both Sexes	59.8	59.7	58.0	59.3	59.2	58.3	58.9	58.9	59.3	58.7
Male	78.4	77.7	76.9	77.5	77.3	76.5	77.2	76.3	76.6	76.1
Female	41.9	42.2	39.8	41.6	41.7	40.7	41.2	42.1	42.5	42.0
Unemployment rate (%)										
Both Sexes	9.6	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	7.4	7.8
Male	5.8	5.5	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.1	5.3	5.1	3.8	4.4
Female	16.4	15.5	16.2	14.8	14.4	12.9	14.4	13.8	13.5	13.9

^{1/} forecast

5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the second quarter of 2008 was estimated at 517,800 with 341,400 males and 176,400 females (Table 2). Employment sex ratio works out to approximately 2 males to 1 female.

5.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

As shown in Table 4, during the second quarter of 2008, the primary sector comprising agriculture, and mining & quarrying, provided jobs to about 8% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed another 33%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 59%.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Industrial sector	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	8.7	9.4	7.3	8.1	8.4	7.6
Secondary	33.1	36.0	27.3	32.9	36.1	26.5
of which Manufacturing	20.8	18.0	26.2	20.2	17.7	25.2
Construction	11.5	17.0	0.7	11.8	17.4	0.9
Tertiary	58.2	54.6	65.4	59.0	55.5	65.9
of which Wholesale and retail trade	13.4	12.9	14.5	14.0	13.9	14.2
Hotels and restaurants	7.6	7.8	7.2	7.7	7.8	7.6
Transport, storage and communications	7.5	9.4	3.8	7.6	9.8	3.1
Public administration and defence	6.7	8.0	4.0	6.8	7.3	6.0
Education, health and social work	9.7	6.9	15.4	9.9	6.9	15.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the second quarter of 2008, 36% of the working population were employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers or craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”. Workers engaged in “elementary occupations” and “service workers and shop and market sales workers” accounted for around 19% each of the workforce. The remaining consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (16%) and “clerks” (10%).

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of males working as “skilled agricultural workers and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”(44%) is twice that of females (22%). On the other hand, the proportion of females engaged in clerical duties (18%) is three times higher than that of males (6%).

Table 5 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by occupation group and sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

ISCO ¹ Major occupational group	Occupation group	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
		Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	15.4	13.5	19.2	15.8	14.9	17.6
4	Clerks	9.1	5.4	16.2	10.1	5.7	18.4
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	18.8	18.2	20.2	18.7	18.1	19.8
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	36.8	44.4	21.5	36.1	43.5	21.9
9	Elementary occupations	19.9	18.5	22.9	19.3	17.8	22.3
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ International Standard Classification of Occupations

5.3 *Employment status*

In the second quarter of 2008, the majority or 80% of workers were employees and the remaining 20% were working in their own or family enterprises with 18% as either employers or own account workers and 2% as contributing family workers (Table 6).

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by employment status and sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Employment status	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Employer	3.0	3.7	1.6	2.9	3.9	0.8
Own account worker	15.1	18.0	9.6	15.0	17.1	11.1
Employee	79.9	77.4	84.7	79.7	78.1	82.9
Contributing family worker	2.0	0.9	4.1	2.4	0.9	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was slightly higher among working women (83%) than among working men (78%), while the proportion of employers and own account workers was higher among men (21%) than among women (12%). On the other hand,

contributing family workers constituted about 5% of working women compared to only one per cent of working men.

5.4 *Hours of Work*

Table 7, on distribution of employment by hours worked, shows that some 3% of employed persons did not work during the reference week because they were sick or on leave. Another 51% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. They were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (14%), wholesale & retail trade (9%), construction (6%), hotels & restaurants (5%) and, transport and communications (4%).

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Actual number of hours worked per week	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	3.8	3.5	4.4	3.3	3.2	3.7
1 - 23	8.1	5.2	13.8	7.5	5.1	12.2
24 - 40	37.1	35.5	40.3	37.8	35.0	43.2
41 - 50	34.1	35.9	30.7	34.0	36.3	29.3
51 and above	16.9	19.9	10.8	17.4	20.4	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 41.4 with men reporting having worked 43.3 hours on average and women, 37.6 hours.

6. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 2008 is estimated at 41,100 comprising 13,600 males and 27,500 females (Table 2). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 7.4% (3.8% for males and 13.5% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 6.3% to 8.5%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 6.8% with the rate being 3.3% for males and 12.8% for females.

6.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that unemployed males were generally younger than unemployed females. Thus, 42% of the males were under 25 years compared to 37% for females. On the other hand, 45% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 32% for males. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 31 years for males as well as for females.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Age group (years)	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	15.6	23.8	10.1	13.3	19.0	10.4
20 - 24	29.4	32.1	27.6	25.7	23.3	26.8
25 - 29	17.1	19.2	15.7	15.1	16.4	14.4
30 - 39	19.3	9.9	25.5	25.6	15.1	30.9
40 - 49	12.8	7.8	16.2	11.3	9.4	12.3
50 & over	5.8	7.2	4.9	9.0	16.8	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.2 *Marital status*

Out of the total number of persons who were unemployed, 45% were single, 46% were married and the remaining 9% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (66%) whilst unemployed females were mostly ever married (65%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Marital status	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	37.5	17.4	51.0	46.3	28.2	55.2
Widowed, divorced or separated	7.8	5.3	9.4	8.5	6.2	9.7
Single	54.7	77.3	39.6	45.2	65.6	35.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.3 *Educational attainment*

From Table 10, it is observed that in the second quarter of 2008, 21% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 45% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportion with SC as highest educational attainment was 20% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 11%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented about 3%.

6.5 Work experience

Out of the 41,100 unemployed at the second quarter of 2008, some 13,200 or 32% were first job seekers while the remaining 27,900 or 68% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 5% of those with work experience were previously in the primary sector, mainly agriculture. About 43% of the unemployed with job experience had worked in the secondary sector, with 33% in manufacturing and 10% in construction. The remaining 52% had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (19%), 'Hotels & restaurants' (10%), 'Private households with employed persons' (7%), and 'Real estate' (4%).

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Industrial sector	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Primary	4.5	6.2	3.2	5.0	8.4	2.8
Secondary	49.6	53.4	46.3	42.8	47.3	40.2
Tertiary	45.9	40.4	50.5	52.2	44.3	57.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The unemployed, who worked before, had to stop working for several reasons. The main reasons being 'closure of firm' and 'completed their temporary job' with 22% each followed by those who were unsatisfied with their job (19%).

6.6 Job search

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. As shown in Table 13, during the second quarter of 2008, the most common method of job search was "applied to prospective employers"(56%) followed by "checked at factories, worksites, etc." (49%). Around 37% were registered at the Employment Service. The percentage who had sought assistance or advice was 27%, the same as for those who had placed or answered advertisements. Only 5% had taken steps to start a business of their own.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Job search method	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	53.3	56.3	51.3	56.4	48.5	60.3
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	55.9	63.3	50.8	48.6	59.0	43.5
Registration at Employment Service	39.1	34.1	42.4	36.6	33.3	38.3
Sought assistance or advice	30.1	34.0	27.6	27.1	29.7	25.8
Placed or answered advertisements	31.2	32.9	30.1	27.2	27.0	27.4
Tried to set up own business	5.3	5.3	5.2	4.6	7.4	3.2

7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 384,400 (108,700 males and 275,700 females) (Table 2). As shown in Table 14, the inactive population comprised 47% (178,700) homemakers, 22% (83,200) retired or old persons, 20% (77,700) students, and nearly 8% (28,700) sick or disabled persons.

Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 2nd quarter 2007 & 2008

Inactivity status	2nd quarter 2007			2nd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	42.9	0.4	58.5	46.6	0.6	64.7
Retired or old persons	25.6	45.0	18.4	21.7	44.2	12.8
Students	20.2	38.7	13.3	20.3	39.0	12.9
Sick or disabled persons	7.7	11.7	6.2	7.5	12.2	5.7
Other	3.6	4.2	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The inactives also included some 6,500 persons not interested to work, among whom 1,300 were aged 16 to 19 years.

It is to be noted that 800 were classified as inactive although they were not working and were available for work because they were not actively looking for work. Those persons have been classified as inactive and not as unemployed since they do not satisfy all the three criteria for

unemployment, i.e. not working, looking for work and available for work. From the survey responses, it is estimated that all of these inactives either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.

An analysis of the inactive population by sex in the above table reveals that the inactive males comprised old, retired, sick or disabled persons (56%) and students (39%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (65%), old, retired, sick or disabled persons (19%) and students (13%).

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Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

Data collection	Face to face interviewing of household members.
Frequency of data collection	Monthly except in 2004 when data collection was carried out every quarter. Up to 2005, the reference period for data on labour force was the last week of the survey month. As from 2006, the reference week has been changed to the second week of the survey month so that estimates can be published within one quarter of the reference period, as required by the IMF Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS) to which the country expects to graduate by June 2009.
Scope and coverage of collection	Private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
Sampling method	<p>Stratified two-stage sampling design. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected with probability proportional to size and at the second stage, a fixed number of households is selected from each selected PSU. Prior to 2005, the first stage stratification factors were urban, semi urban and rural geographical locations. As from 2005, the Relative Development Index (RDI) is used as the spatial stratification factor. This index is based on 12 variables encompassing housing and living conditions, literacy and education, and employment derived from the 2000 Housing and Population Census to rank PSUs. A set of RDIs for administrative regions has been published in the series "Economic and Social Indicators" - Issue No. 393.</p> <p>The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.</p>
Sample size	From 1999 to 2003, around 6,500 households were covered each year. In 2004, the sample was increased to 8,640 so that reliable quarterly estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment could be worked out. As from 2005, the sample for the year has been further increased to 11,280. Furthermore, in order to measure quarterly changes, 50% of the households sampled in a quarter are re-interviewed in the following quarter; for example, 50% of the households sampled in the first quarter of 2005 have been re-interviewed in the second quarter of 2005.

Questionnaire

The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: a basic module common to all rounds of the survey covering the general characteristics of the population, one or more special topic modules dealing with subjects requiring in-depth investigation and a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

Every year different topics are covered according to users' needs. As from 2004, the CMPHS is also being used as the instrument for the measurement of labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis; hence, a set of core questions on the labour force has been included and will be kept constant at all rounds of the survey.

Estimation and reliability of results Estimates worked out from household survey data are inevitably subject to sampling variability since they are based on information collected from only a sample of households rather than from all households. The Standard Error (S.E) which is a measure of this variability, is used to set confidence intervals for any estimate (whether a total or a rate) derived from the sample. For example, a 95% confidence interval indicates that there is 95% chance that the upper and lower limits of the interval enclose the true value (which would be obtained if all households had been surveyed). Standard errors and confidence intervals are calculated for the main labour force estimates.

Definition of terms used

1. Household

A household is defined as either a person living on his/her own or a group of two or more persons, who may or may not be related, but who live together and make common provision for food and other essentials for living.

2. Employment

Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16¹ years and above (16+) who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week of a month. It includes those who are temporarily absent from work for reasons such as leave with pay, leave without pay and temporary disorganisation of work (bad weather, break down of equipment, lack of order, etc.).

3. Unemployment

Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16+ who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work during the reference period.

4. Labour force

Labour force or active population is made up of employed and unemployed population.

5. Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to that of labour force.

6. Inactive population

Inactive population includes all Mauritians aged 16+, not forming part of the labour force for reasons such as attendance at educational institutions, engagement in household duties, retirement, old age and infirmity/disablement.

7. Activity rate

Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to that of population aged 16+ (active + inactive population).

8. Employer

An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.

9. Own account worker

An Own account worker is a person who operates his/her own business or trade but does not hire employees. He/She may be working alone or with the help of unpaid family members.

10. Employee

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity. An Apprentice, who is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money is also considered as an employee.

11. Contributing family worker

A Contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.

12. Educational attainment

Primary : comprises those who have studied up to a “Standard” between Standard 1 and the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

Secondary : comprises those who have studied up to a “Form” between Form 1 and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent.

Tertiary: comprises those who above their secondary certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a diploma/certificate (which is above the HSC but below a first degree) or a degree.

¹ As from year 2007, labour force estimates are based on population aged 16 years and above, following the amendment to the Labour Act in December 2006 whereby the minimum legal working age is 16 years, and the subsequent recommendation by the ILO to be in line with the amended Labour Act

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 16 years and over, 2000 - 2008
ANNEX II
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Year	Labour force			Employment (including foreign workers)			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ¹	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ² (%)
Both sexes								
2000	503.0	14.6	517.6	298.7	186.2	484.9	32.7	6.5
2001	510.3	16.5	526.8	302.0	190.1	492.1	34.7	6.8
2002	513.0 ³	17.0	530.0	297.2	196.0	493.2	36.8	7.2
2003	520.9	18.2	539.1	296.9	202.1	499.0	40.1	7.7
2004	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	301.3	222.4	523.7	46.8	8.5
2008 ⁵	553.9	24.2	578.1	306.7	228.0	534.7	43.4	7.8
Male								
2000	334.7	5.0	339.7	187.5	135.0	322.5	17.2	5.1
2001	337.9	5.8	343.7	188.3	137.0	325.3	18.4	5.4
2002	339.8 ³	6.4	346.2	188.2	140.0	328.2	18.0	5.3
2003	343.1	7.9	351.0	188.2	143.2	331.4	19.6	5.7
2004	347.8	9.0	356.8	189.1	147.7	336.8	20.0	5.8
2005	349.6	9.1	358.7	189.3	149.2	338.5	20.2	5.8
2006	351.4	8.3	359.7	190.0	150.5	340.5	19.2	5.5
2007	353.6	12.1	365.7	195.0	152.1	347.1	18.6	5.3
2008 ⁵	352.7	14.8	367.5	197.6	154.5	352.1	15.4	4.4
Female								
2000	168.3	9.6	177.9	111.2	51.2	162.4	15.5	9.2
2001	172.4	10.7	183.1	113.7	53.1	166.8	16.3	9.5
2002	173.2 ³	10.6	183.8	109.0	56.0	165.0	18.8	10.9
2003	177.8	10.3	188.1	108.7	58.9	167.6	20.5	11.5
2004	183.5	8.5	192.0	104.2	63.2	167.4	24.6	13.4
2005	192.9	7.5	200.4	102.9	65.8	168.7	31.7	16.4
2006	197.0	8.4	205.4	105.1	69.7	174.8	30.6	15.5
2007	195.3 ⁴	9.5	204.8	106.3	70.3	176.6	28.2	14.4
2008 ⁵	201.2	9.4	210.6	109.1	73.5	182.6	28.0	13.9

¹ Employing 10 or more persons

² Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

³ The low increase results from the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the sugar industry

⁴ The decrease is explained by a larger number of female students and housewives

⁵ Forecast